



Department Updates

October / November 2018

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Health & Human Services

Stacey Frolik, Director

The Barron County Public Health Department, in collaboration with County Health Systems; Marshfield, Mayo, Cumberland and Amery Health Systems completed the community health assessment with the community on September 26, 2018. Work groups have been created to formulate work plans to improve health outcomes for the top three health priorities for Barron County; Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs, Mental Health and Chronic Disease prevention. If you are interested in being an active member of any or all of these groups, contact Laura Sauve at 715-537-6109.

Transition plans are well underway for our Comprehensive Community Services programming. Currently, we are in a consortium with 10 other counties and will be transitioning as of 1/1/2019

into a consortium with Eau Claire and St. Croix Counties. The primary purpose of this transition is to localize operations with the intended outcome of better service to consumers. The certification site visit has been scheduled by the State of Wisconsin for November 19th.

As of January 1, 2019 DHHS will no longer be providing Domestic Abuse services. Barron County residents will now be served by a non-profit advocacy agency, Embrace, which currently serves Washburn, Price and Rusk Counties. As of January 1, any person needing services related to domestic violence or sexual assault may contact Embrace at 1-800-924-0556.

The Energy Assistance program is in full swing for this heating season. The program runs from October 1, 2018 - May 15, 2019. Those in need of heating/energy

assistance can apply for the benefit at anytime within the program period. The program provides a one-time heat and electric benefit to eligible households and can also potentially assist with disconnection notices and unoperational furnace issues.

The Brighter Futures Initiative hosted a Strengthening Families train the trainer and trained 20 people in the model. This evidence-based program will be used throughout the county.

Public Health Accreditation continues to move forward. We are scheduled for a site visit with the Public Health Accreditation Board on December 6 and 7th. This will be an opportunity for that board to review the good work done by the Public Health Team and will also provide us direction in areas that we may need to strengthen.

Forestry

John Cisek, Forester

Timber Sale Activity

- Aspen – Buckthorn Sale – This sale situated east of the Loch-Lomond Development in the Town of Cedar Lk. is complete, hauling continues. Application of herbicide to

control the buckthorn was provided through a DNR Sustainable Forestry Grant

- The ATV Sale, which connects Barron Co. ATV Trails to Rusk Co. has been completed. Installation of bridge decks, gravel and culverts is being

supervised by Deputy Dave Moin.

- The Butternut Lk. sale and the Fenceline sale are temporarily suspended due to wet weather.

County staff will be meeting with the DNR in December to discuss plans for reforestation



Iowa DOT / clearroads.org

Treasurer

Vonnie Ritchie, Treasurer

Unpaid Taxes

On September 1st of each year, the current year unpaid taxes are transferred to certificates. This is the first step in the tax foreclosure process. The unpaid tax for the 2018 tax year is slightly higher this year although the percentage of the total tax roll is less. Listed below is a spreadsheet showing the tax roll and certificate totals for the past 11 years showing the balances on September of the year the taxes were due and also the balances due as of September 1, 2018.

Tx Year/ Year Due	Total Tax Roll	Delq Tax Total Sept.1 of Sale Year	% Unpaid	Balance Due September 1, 2018
2007/2008	\$69,598,313.20	\$1,492,011.09	2.14%	\$338.76
2008/2009	\$71,666,416.40	\$2,133,601.83	2.98%	\$346.87
2009/2010	\$74,900,729.82	\$1,732,165.61	2.31%	\$226.49
2010/2011	\$77,395,966.67	\$1,737,114.51	2.24%	\$804.88
2011/2012	\$76,795,529.89	\$1,567,455.46	2.04%	\$1,085.68
2012/2013	\$76,901,453.31	\$1,737,114.51	2.26%	\$1,113.51
2013/2014	\$78,275,967.08	\$1,413,250.08	1.81%	\$2,290.34
2014/2015	\$80,401,592.87	\$1,122,424.64	1.40%	\$15,569.64
2015/2016	\$81,614,850.63	\$1,197,132.32	1.47%	\$170,762.48
2016/2017	\$83,514,987.05	\$926,512.08	1.11%	\$390,778.97
2017/2018	\$86,579,823.85	\$932,812.82	1.08%	\$932,812.82

The In-Rem Tax Deed process starts two years from the September 1st certificate date.

Tax Foreclosure Property

Through the tax foreclosure process we took title to 12 parcels. The owners have until October 19, 2018, to repurchase these properties before they are advertised for sale. For details please contact my office. We hope to sell the properties that are not repurchased at public auction in November. We also have three other properties remaining from last year's tax foreclosure process that will be included with this sale. Sale information will be available on the county website and in all county newspapers three weeks prior to the sale.

Medical Examiner

Mary Ricci, Medical Examiner

Barron County Medical Examiner's Report Death Investigations - 3rd Quarter 2018

MONTHS	TOTAL DEATHS	MALE	FEMALE	AGE	NATURAL DEATHS	SUICIDE/HOMICIDE	ACCIDENTAL DEATHS	PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION	AUTOPSY	CREMATION INVESTIGATIONS	DEATH CERTIFICATE INVESTIGATIONS	ON-SCENE -BY INVESTIGATOR
July August September	124	66	58	103 Oldest --- 7 Youngest	111	1=GSW 1=Hanging 1=OOS	5=Falls 2=MVA (3 fatalities)	2	4=Clinical 1=Forensic	93	38	Ricci =24 Neal =5 Moin=3 Dunston= 7

ADRC / Aging

Jennifer Jako, Director

The Aging & Disability Resource Center's (ADRC) mission is to empower and support older adults, people with disabilities, and their families - to ask for help to achieve maximum independence and quality of life. ADRC staff serve and support our community in a variety of ways - by linking them with resources and/or providing services. Our customers cover a wide spectrum: older adults and adults with disabilities, their families, friends, caregivers, neighbors, and guardians. We assist physicians, discharge planners, social workers, care managers, businesses and employers. In addition to linking customers with resources, the ADRC has a wide range of services including: meals on wheels, specialized transportation, senior dining, adult day respite (DAYBREAK), benefits counseling, evidenced-based healthy aging workshops, caregiver support, and dementia care services. Most of these services have been around for 45 years.

Aging Plan: For most of 2018, we were busy creating our 2019-2021 "Aging Plan." This plan guides the work we do in the community over the next three years. The process is very similar to Public Health's Community Health Needs Assessment and plan, but this plan focuses solely on older adults. The process started earlier in the year by gathering public input through a variety of methods. Top concerns identified by older adults in our community were: transportation, living situations, nutrition, social isolation, dementia, caregiver shortage, healthcare, financial stability, and scams. Our plan focuses on many of these areas.

Population projections indicate the aging population will continue to expand rapidly over the first half of this century; nearly 40% of Barron County residents will be 60 years old and older by year 2040. This has been termed the "Aging Wave." In addition, the issues of poverty, disabilities, affordable housing, mental health, AODA, and transportation will have significant impacts on our community.

Transportation Coordination Plan: This was also the year to update our local human services transportation coordination plan. These plans are required by federal legislation, with updates every 5 years, in order for the county to receive funding under Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program. Transportation coordination involves human service agencies, transportation providers, consumer groups, and public officials working together to develop and improve services for individuals unable to provide their own transportation. Many of

those served are not able to provide their own transportation as a result of disability, age or income. Transportation coordination provides more rides to more consumers through cooperation, communication and sharing resources, ensuring that transportation resources funded by local, state and federal programs are well-managed. Every transportation provider in the county is vital.

Transportation is a top unmet need in our county and across the state of Wisconsin and is among the most requested support service for older adults and persons with disabilities. Having transportation programs allows individuals to remain in a community setting and out of expensive institutional care. Thriving communities have strong transportation options.

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment:

Some of our current activities include Medicare D open enrollment; open enrollment is October 15 – December 7. You can't just sign up when you want, so it's important to know when you can enroll in the different parts of Medicare. ADRC staff offer assistance to people to evaluate and enroll in a drug plan online. This year, Medicare beneficiaries have 27 drug plans on average to choose from to find the best fit with their prescription needs in the coming year. The change in plans will take effect on January 1, 2019. Last year we helped approximately 800 people with their Medicare Part D plans from Oct - Dec. We are on track to exceed that number this year.

Wisconsin State Dementia Plan: Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are considered a major public health crisis. According to the Alzheimer's Association, 110,000 Wisconsin residents aged 65 and older had Alzheimer's disease in 2018. Between 2015 and 2040, it is projected that the population aged 65 and older will grow by 640,000 people, an increase of 72%. Not only do these diseases significantly affect the life of the person living with the disease, but they also have an impact on the family members and friends who serve as caregivers.

Earlier this year, a Dementia Summit brought together key stakeholders to identify priorities for a new Wisconsin State Dementia Plan. Dementia Summit participants established priorities in four major categories: care in communities, health care, dementia-related crisis response, and facility-based care. The new Wisconsin State Dementia Plan: 2019 - 2023, built on those priorities, is now ready and can help guide the efforts of partners across Wisconsin. Our work aligns with this plan and I encourage you to read the plan.

25th Anniversary for DAYBREAK: In May, we proudly celebrated 25 years of providing services for adults with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia in Barron County! DAYBREAK is a safe and supportive environment for those with memory change. It began in April 1993 by a Barron County support group for caregivers of adults with memory loss that began in 1986. Over time, the group identified the need for an organized type of respite for those who were caring for family members with dementia. They started looking for opportunities to fund a day respite program.

With donations from the Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, The Brookdale Foundation, local community funds, church and civic organizations, DAYBREAK opened its doors. The program is person-centered and designed to help and encourage participants to maintain purpose and dignity. Community connections are important to the program, and music is an integral part of every day. Participants enjoy music from local musicians (recent visit from Chris Kroeze), playing piano, harp and accordion, choirs and children's programs. Community guest experts come to share information on a wide variety of topics including: wood carving, making maple syrup, making ice cream, and Tai Chi, just to name a few.

Daybreak has maintained certification by the Wisconsin Bureau of Quality Assurance for almost 20 years. Anyone interested in learning more about the program or to find out about scholarships available can contact the ADRC at 715-537-6225.

Centenarian Celebration: Last but not least, we hosted a centenarian celebration on November 2, 2018 at Lehman's Supper Club in Rice Lake. Nine centenarians along with their family and friends came and enjoyed lunch and time to reflect and share advice. Centenarians have long been researched. What helps you reach that magical 100 years? There is no one pathway to reaching age 100, but it has been shown that the following tricks can help you get there - which were referenced again and again by our centenarians: a positive attitude, healthy diet, routine exercise, strong faith, clean living, supportive family, genetics, and "stay off your darn cell phone!" to paraphrase.

2018 has been a busy year in the ADRC. Staff continue to enjoy the work they do; they continually rise to each occasion by providing excellent customer service to help older adults, persons with disabilities, and their families to meet their goals and make a difference in our communities.